

Appl. No. 09/992,617
Amdt. dated 12/03/04
Reply to Office Action dated 09/07/04

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace claim 3 as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for producing a video collage, comprising the steps of:

segmenting a video into a plurality of video segments;
providing a video collage template having at least one individual video frame;
associating a video segment from said plurality of video segments with said individual video frame of said video collage template; and,
producing a video collage from said video collage template and said associated video segment.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of associating a video segment from said plurality of video segments includes the steps of:

selecting a plurality of video segments from said plurality of video segments; and,
associating each of said selected plurality of video segments with a respective individual frame of said video collage.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of associating a video segment from said plurality of video segments includes the steps of:

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providing a plurality of representative images, wherein each representative image represents one of said plurality of video segments;

selecting a representative image from said plurality of representative images; and
associating said representative image with said individual video frame of said video collage template.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 1, further including the step of:

providing a video segment template, wherein said video segment template contains a plurality of representative images, wherein each representative image is associated with one of said plurality of video segments; and,

wherein said step of associating a video segment includes associating a representative image from said plurality of representative images with said individual video frame of said video collage template.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of segmenting said video includes segmenting said video into a selected number of segments.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of segmenting said video includes segmenting said video using a Genetic Segmentation Algorithm ("GSA").

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Claim 7 (Original): The method of Claim 1 further including the step of compacting said associated video segment.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of Claim 7 wherein said step of compacting includes the steps of:

assigning an importance value to said video segment;
assigning a feature vector to said video segment; and,
truncating a portion of said video segment based on said importance value and said feature vector.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of Claim 8 wherein the importance value relates to a size of said individual video frame with which said video segment is associated.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of Claim 8 wherein the feature vector relates to a content activity of said video segment.

Claim 11 (Original): A video collage, comprising:

a video collage template having at least one individual video frame; and,
a representative image associated with a video segment, wherein said representative image is contained in said at least one individual video frame.

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Claim 12 (Original): The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said video segment associated with said representative image may be viewed by selecting said representative image.

Claim 13 (Original): The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said video collage has a plurality of individual video frames, and wherein said plurality of individual video frames each contain a representative image, wherein each representative image is associated with a video segment.

Claim 14 (Original): The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said representative image is assigned an importance value based on a size of said individual video frame in which said representative image is contained.

Claim 15 (Original): The video collage of Claim 14, wherein a length of said video segment associated with said representative image is reduced based on said importance value.

Claim 16 (Original): The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said representative image is associated with a feature vector.

Claim 17 (Original): The video collage of Claim 16, wherein a value of said feature vector is determined based on a size of said individual video frame and a content activity of said associated video segment.

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Claim 18 (Original): The video collage of Claim 16, wherein a length of said representative image is reduced based on a value of said feature vector.

Claim 19 (Original): A video collage user interface, comprising:

- a video collage template having at least one individual video frame;
- a video segment template including a plurality of representative images, wherein each representative image is associated with a video segment; and,
- a video segment selection device.

Claim 20 (Original): The video collage user interface of Claim 19, wherein said video segment selection device is used for selecting a representative image and inserting said selected representative image into said at least one individual video frame.

Claim 21 (Original): An apparatus for producing a video collage, comprising:

- a processor; and
- a processor readable storage medium in communication with said processor, containing processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:
 - segment a video into a plurality of video segments;
 - provide a video collage template having at least one individual video frame;
 - associate a video segment from said plurality of video segments with said individual video frame of said video collage template; and,

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produce a video collage from said video collage template and said associated video segment.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to associate a video segment from said plurality of video segments includes processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

select a plurality of video segments from said plurality of video segments; and,
associate said selected plurality of video segments with a respective individual video frame of said video collage template.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to segment a video includes processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

segment said video into a selected number of segments.

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to segment a video includes processor readable program code for programming said apparatus to:

segment said video using a Genetic Segmentation Algorithm ("GSA").

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Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 21 further including processor readable program code for programming said apparatus to:

compact said associated video segment.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein said processor readable program code for programming said apparatus to compact said associated video segment includes processor readable program code for programming said apparatus to:

assign an importance value to said associated video segment;

assign a feature vector to said associated video segment; and,

truncate a portion of said associated video segment based on said importance value and said feature vector.